Scans: aliasanonyme Translation: fencer_x

Cleaning: paula Typesetting: fencer_x

MID-TERM EXAMIN
1 出来田 卓 960
2 坂本 太郎 937
3 HIRONO YUUSA 912
4 金田 実果 910
Once I entered middle school,
I started worrying more about scores and grades.
But unlike in elementary school,
I found myself unable to compete with those who specialized in certain areas.
SILVER
GOLD
HIRONO YUUSA
初恋
Chapter 3
Kazuki Rai
一樹らい

That I was still a "hero".
I guess I just wanted to prove to myself...
...that it was GIRLS that I was attracted to.
I soon began to seek out female companionship.

I wanted to prove it to myself...
...and to everyone around me...
Pointlessly.

And apparently the girls I dated caught on to that.
2013/ 2/ 4 20:12
なな ちゃん
Wanna break up?

Huh?
'Why'?
IT'S JUST, IT'S SO SUDDEN!
KIND OF A SHOCK, REALLY...
I EVEN GAVE HER A BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
I TEXTED AND CALLED PRETTY FREQUENTLY...
BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT I WAS ANNOYING...
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?!
...Well, to put it bluntly,
I mean, you're really sweet, and everyone's totally jealous of me,
It feels like a pretend relationship.
It's obvious you just want to have a girlfriend.
It kind of feels like you don't really care if you're with ME or not.
But honestly, I'm kind of tired of it.

But are you may-be...
...in love with som-one else...?
TSUN
And also,
I kind of got this vibe when you came over the other day,
I DON'T MEAN TO BE ONE!
YEAH YEAH,
I KNOW DAAAAMN WELL HOW HARD YOU WORK AT THIS...
SLAM
THAT'S THE 7TH ONE, HUH?
WHAT A PLAYBOY!

APPARENTLY I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
.....
chatter
chatter
C'MON, DON'T BE DOWN!
WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM THIS TIME?
DIDN'T ONE OF THE OTHERS TELL YOU THE SAME THING BEFORE?
THEY DID
SO ARE YOU?
NO!!
I'M NOT...

WHEN I ASKED HIM WHY HE'D NEVER MARRIED AS A KID, HE SAID HE COULDN'T GET OVER HIS FIRST LOVE.
NOW, ONLY YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOURSELF HAPPY.

?
MY UNCLE DIED LAST YEAR AT AGE 55. HE'D BEEN A BACHELOR HIS WHOLE LIFE.

FUCK, MAN. I DON'T WANT YOU TO WIND UP LIKE THAT
BUT DYING ALONE IN YOUR APARTMENT, WITH NO ONE EVEN NOTICING FOR A WHOLE MONTH...?

Woo-hoo!!
Haha! Seriously?
I don't think...

Hey An-chan!
What a great surprise! Getting a call at lunch from you!

WH- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO-
brrrr
Oh!

chatter
chatter
Ahahaha!
...I ever looked like that with anyone I dated.
I ruined out the only things I learned with graduation soon upon me...
...and that no matter hard I tried, I didn't have the skill to be the best at anything.
...GOD I'M TIRED...
I just messed up somewhere.
NO WAY!
NOT ME!
I wonder if I'm gonna die a loner like his uncle, never having done anything with my life...
Some choice I made,
or something I did.
Some-thing.

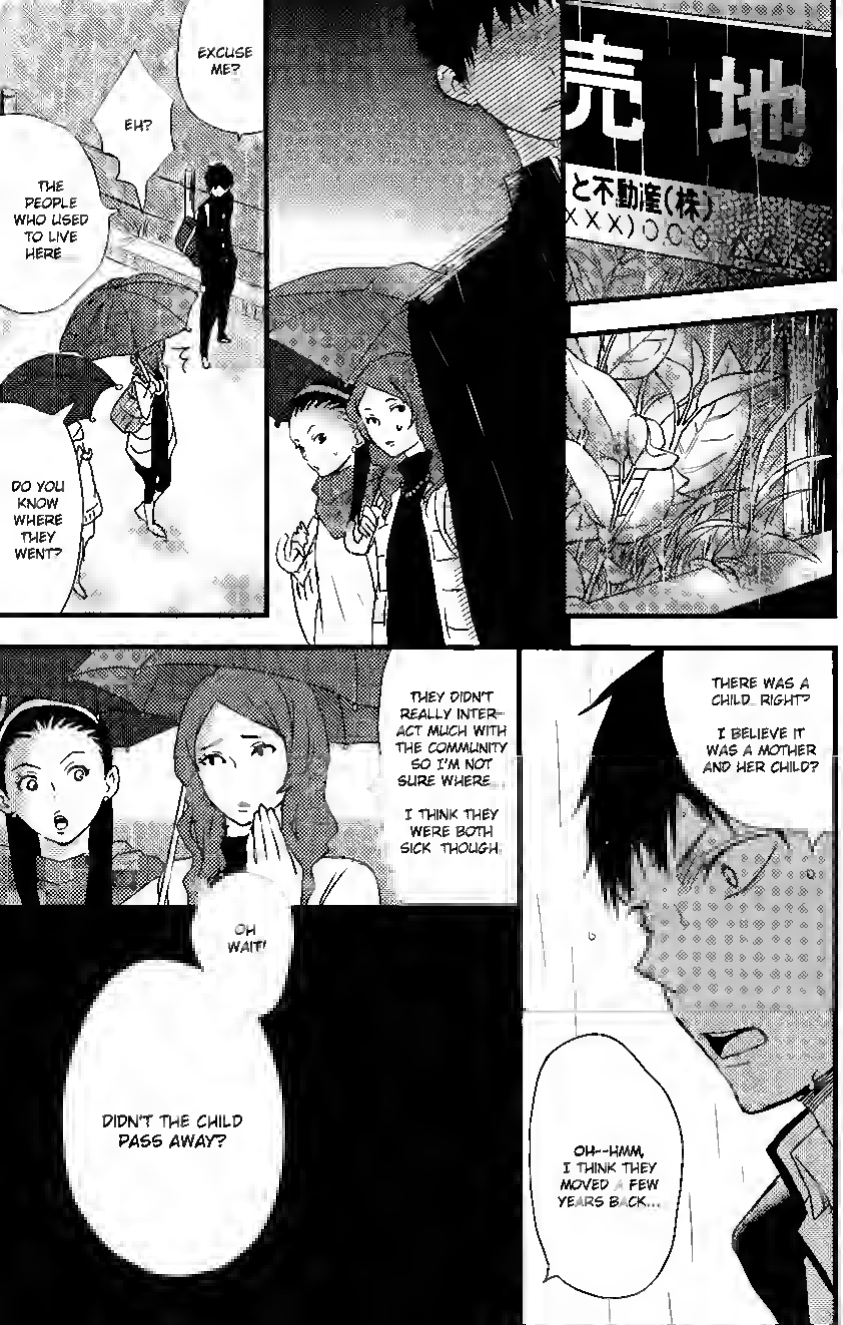
WH-WHAT'S WRONG, HIRO?
I'LL BE BACK LATER
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
STAND
OI, HIRONO, CLASS WILL BE STARTING SOON ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL...?
SORRY.
It sent a chill down my spine.

I hadn't been able...

...to completely banish my memories of my princess.

Any time I'd dated someone,
every time I gave them something, or told them something, or taught them something, or touched them,
I unconsciously wondered how my princess would react,
and then find myself disappointed in how the person I was with measured up in comparison.
It's a curse.
If I can't, I'll never be able to love anyone,
I have to break it.
I'll never be able to be happy...
shhhhh...
I just [illegible] that I had to [illegible] him.
SHIT
MY STOMACH HURTS
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE COME THIS WAY
I don't remember what I intended to say once I met him again, actually.
I got it into my mind that maybe if we started over, things would go better this time...
I WANT TO GO HOME...
THIS FUCKING SUCKS

But...
Save points don't exist in real life.
FOR SALE


EXCUSE ME?
EH?
THE PEOPLE WHO USED TO LIVE HERE
DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY WENT?
売 地
と不動産(株)
THEY DIDN'T REALLY INTERACT MUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY SO I'M NOT SURE WHERE...
I THINK THEY WERE BOTH SICK THOUGH.
THERE WAS A CHILD, RIGHT?
I BELIEVE IT WAS A MOTHER AND HER CHILD?
OH WAIT!
DIDN'T THE CHILD PASS AWAY?
OH--HMM, I THINK THEY MOVED A FEW YEARS BACK...

EH..?
WAIT, WASN'T IT A LITTLE BOY?
A LITTLE GIRL, RIGHT? POOR THING
HUH? NO WAY! IT WAS A CUTE LITTLE GIRL! TOOYAMA-SAN SAID SO
.....
It's Hime...
So then... no one wound up saving him...
"...DOESN'T HAVE LONG..."
Huh...
I see...
So I'll never be able to see him again...
Okay...

"THIS GREAT AND MIGHT HERO HERE SHALL RESCUE YOU FROM YOUR IMPRISONMENT, PRINCESS!"
I couldn't keep my promise...
"YOU'RE DISGUSTING."
I went and hurt him...

I was certain that I'd regret what I'd done until the day I died.

It would be my penance for pretending to be a hero.

With that loss, I realized for the first time just how foolish I'd been.

And...just how important Hime had been to me.

And despite having fallen into an abyss of hopelessness...
Yup.
chatter
chatter
For leaving Hime to die.
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
...WHY IS HE SITTING HERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES STUFFING HIS FACE WITH A RICE BALL?!
MAN, MINCED TUNA AND PLUM IS SUUUPER TASTY!!
And holy CRAP he has been going on and on about onigiri and I could not possibly care any less.
THE PLUM HAS SOME HONEY IN IT, AND THEN THEY TAKE SOME SOY SAUCE AND...
THEY TASTE WAY BETTER TOGETHER THAN THEY DO SEPARATELY TOO!
He's doing JUST FINE AND DANDY.

IT'S HIME.
WE'RE TRYING TO SELL IT BUT THERE'S NO TAKERS!
YOU KNOW THAT WESTERN-STYLE MANSION OVER IN MINAMI-YAMA? THAT USED TO BE MY HOUSE!
NAH I LIVED IN IZU BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL BUT I LIVED HERE UNTIL THEN
Wait, no...
It's not for 100% certain that this guy and Hime are the same person...
O-OH YEAH, HEY, HIMEKAWA...
YOU LIVE AROUND HERE, DON'T YOU? HAVE YOU ALWAYS LIVED IN THIS AREA?
There's no mistake...
I can't believe I never remotely noticed before!
I guess if you look close there's some resemblance in the face, but the personality and expressions are completely different!
?
SO THEN DOES HE NOT REALIZE WHO I AM?
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING AT ALL, HIRONO? ARE YOU FEELING OKAY...?
HAS HE NOT BEEN LOOKING FOR ME AT ALL?
YEAH

Plus...
Hey hey what's this called??
That's five times now.
A stag beetle
Oh right...he's always had a really crappy memory.
WELL THEN, LET'S GIVE HIRONO-KUN HERE MY DESSERT! A STRAWBERRY!
THANKS.
I GUESS I'VE ALSO CHANGED A FAIR BIT MYSELF
A few days later
So...

So of course this is where I deployed my special move.
▷ FLEE
FIGHT
I've got a whole mountain of things I want to ask him...
Did his disease get cured?
Why did he move?
What was with those rumors that he'd died?
Why did he dress up like a girl in the first place?
I THINK I'LL KEEP QUIET ABOUT THE FACT THAT I WAS HIS "HERO"
Thanks but no thanks to ALL of that.
EH?!
YOU WERE ...?!
He'd be disillusioned with me.
things would get weird.
M-
MORNING...
And if I told him I'd been in love with him,
He'd just get mad.
WHY'D YOU GO AND DIS APPEAR LIKE THAT?!
About that day.

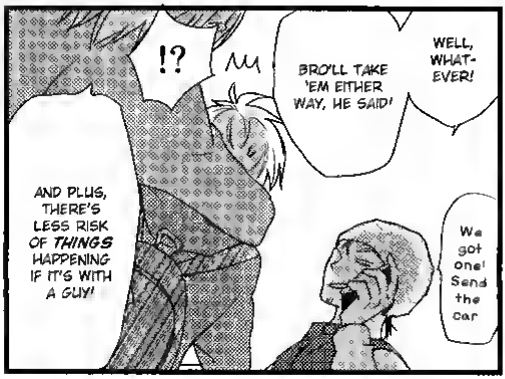
I swore that I wouldn't screw up our relationship this time.
...was that my princess, who I'd thought dead, had come back to me in the form of a man and was now my friend.
I felt like I'd been granted a do-over by God.
What was most important...
Hiro no!!
But maybe I was just desperate for some relief from the guilt I'd been feeling.
OFF TO WORK?
YUP!
I always like to jump to conclusions that suit me best.
WHERE DO YOU WORK AGAIN?
A GAS STAND!
I didn't even consider how much Himekawa had been longing to see me again.
Sure, if you say so.
It's got a cool image, right??

GEEZ, IT'S PITCH BLACK...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OPEN
I WOUND UP STICKING AROUND FOR A PRETTY LONG TIME, I GUESS...
It's been a while since I felt this free, huh...
HM?

WHO'S HE WITH THERE?
HIME-KAWA?
IS HE JUST GETTING OFF HIS SHIFT?
!?
C'MOON.

WAIT, HUH?
ALSO, CHECK THE GENDER OF THE PERSON BEFORE HITTING ON THEM!
OH SNAP! YOU'RE A DUDE!
the leaks of secrets

WE JUST WANNA HANG OUT WITH YA FOR A BIT
OUR BRO'S FINICKY ABOUT VIRGINS, SEE
I-I SAID NO, OKAY?!


!?
WELL, WHATEVER!
BRO'LL TAKE 'EM EITHER WAY, HE SAID!
We got one! Send the car
AND PLUS, THERE'S LESS RISK OF THINGS HAPPENING IF IT'S WITH A GUY!

THAT HUR-
YOU'VE GOTTA BE JOKING!

HIMEKAWA!
SOME-ONE!!
S-

WHAM
HEY! YOU!
EH?!
HIRONO?
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
GET BACK HERE!

GEEEEZ THAT FREAKED ME OUT!
THEY AREN'T COMING AFTER US
J-JUST PEACHY.
YOU OKAY, HIMEKAWA?
WE RAN TOO FAST...

YOU CAN REALLY HOLD YOUR OWN IN A FIGHT...
NAH, NOT IN A REAL ONE
WHAT WAS WITH THEM, ANYWAY?
THEY WERE HITTING ON ME.
SOMETIMES I GET MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY DIDN'T BACK OFF AFTER FINDING OUT I'M A GUY, THOUGH...
AH, I SEE...
DAMMIT!
HOW HUMILIATING IS IT TO GET MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL AND NEARLY KIDNAPPED AND NOT BE ABLE TO GET AT LEAST ONE GOOD PUNCH IN?!
JOLT
GAH!!
I EVEN HAD TO GET SAVED BY HIRONO! GOD I'M SUCH A LOSERRR!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD HELP IT. I WAS PRETTY SPOOKED MYSELF.
YEAH... I'D PROBABLY HAVE BEEN IN A LOT OF TROUBLE IF YOU HADN'T COME
THANKS.
WANT ME TO WALK YOU HOME?
DON'T YOU START TREATING ME LIKE A GIRL, TOO! I'M FINE!
SEE YA!
Y-YEAH!
.....

HIME-
KAWA!

I'D KINDA...
...LIKE TO SEE YOUR PLACE
AN APART-MENT?
YEAH
IT'S SMALL BUT PRETTY NICE!
I THOUGHT HE'D BE IN ANOTHER LAVISH MANSION...
WAIT, DO YOU...LIVE ALONE?
YUP! I DE-CIDED TO MOVE HERE FOR HIGH SCHOOL ON MY OWN, HOPING TO MEET MY HERO!
THANKS
HUH?
FOR SEEING ME HOME
OH, UH...
SURE...

O-OKAY THEN, I'M HEADING HOME.
I'LL MISS THE LAST TRAIN, OTHERWISE
HIRONO
STAY OVER.
TOMORROW'S THE WEEKEND, AFTER ALL.
EH...?
THERE'S...
...SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
To Be Continued